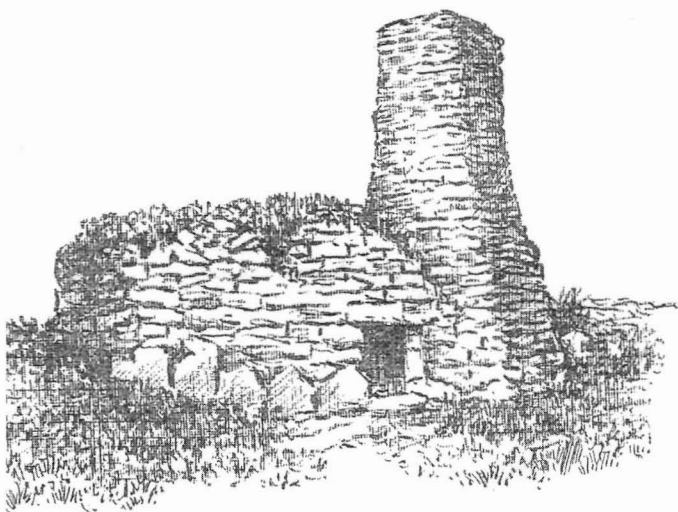


## BEFORE AND AFTER



Thomson's 1866 photo of Ahu Vaihu (top) vs Love's 2006 photo. Thomson incorrectly referred to this structure as Ahu Tongariki.



Thomson's 1886 sketch of a north coast *tupa* (left) and Love's 2006 photograph (above). Thomson called this structure an observation tower. It is located four *ahu* to the east of La Pérouse bay. The 'tower' has collapsed but it appears to be the same structure.

Archaeologist Charlie Love has had an ongoing project for many years: that of exploring Rapa Nui with a copy of Thomson's 1886 book in hand. He photographs the sites, taking care to duplicate the same view as is shown in the early pictures. At top, a view of Ahu Vaihu taken by Thomson is compared to a recent photograph by Love. A *moai* head in the Thomson photograph has a crack, but Love's 2006 photograph shows that section has fallen off. Love is compiling "then vs. now" photographs, not only from Thomson but also from Routledge. While the most obvious differences are often new lichen growth, small shrubs are turning into trees and obscuring many *moai*, both at Rano Raraku as well as at sites along the south coast road.